REPORT OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE ICGLR REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (RINR)

8th – 10th September 2015
Grand Palace Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The 12th Meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee on the Regional Initiative on fight against the illegal exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) took place from 8th to 10th September 2015 at Grand Palace Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia and was officially opened by Mr. Paul L. Chanda, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development of the Republic of Zambia.

1.2. Prior to the Regional Committee meeting, Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo, Programme Officer Democracy and Good Governance at ICGLR Secretariat and GIZ co-chaired the 8th Meeting of the group of partners on the RINR on 7th September 2015 at the ICGLR Levy Mwanawasa Regional Center. The objective of the meeting was to share updates on the implementation and coordination of the RINR activities by partners and lay the foundation for strategic activities to be implemented in 2016. The meeting was attended by the following partners: GIZ, BGR, TETRA TECH and PAC. The AfDB project activities were presented by the Coordinator of the Technical Unit on Natural Resources at the ICGLR Secretariat.

1.3. The main objectives of the 12th Meeting of the Regional Committee was to present updates on the progress made and major challenges to be addressed by both the ICGLR Secretariat and Member States in the implementation process of the RINR; to have updates on the recent work of the ICGLR Audit Committee; to discuss the recruitment process of the Independent Mineral Chain Auditor (IMCA) and decide on the best candidates to be submitted to Executive Secretary of the ICGLR; and finally to identify on priority activities of the Member States to be included in the 2016 Operational Plan of the Technical Unit on Natural Resources of the ICGLR Secretariat.
1.4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Member States: Republic of Angola, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Central Africa, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Uganda and Republic of Zambia. The meeting was also attended by the Representative of the Regional Women Forum, the team of the ICGLR Secretariat headed by Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo, Programme Officer for Democracy and Good Governance. A delegation from Levy Mwanawasa Lusaka Centre led by the Executive Director, the Director General of AMGC, the Chairman of the ICGLR Audit Committee, and partners as well attended.

2. OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION

2.1. The meeting was officially opened by the Guest of Honor, Mr. Paul L. Chanda, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development of the Republic of Zambia under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye, Chairman of ICGLR Regional Committee and the moderation of Lt. General, Ambassador Solomon Mumbi, ICGLR National Coordinator in Zambia. The opening session was also honored by the Representative of the ICGLR Executive Secretary, Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo.

2.2. The ICGLR National Coordinator of Zambia, welcomed all delegates to Zambia on behalf of the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM), and went on to highlight the progress made in putting into action the 6 tools of the RINR. He also mentioned that what Zambia learnt during the concluded peer learning visit to Rwanda will be implemented. He ended by inviting participants to take time of visiting some touristic places in Zambia.

2.3. The Chairman of the ICGLR Regional Committee, Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye, thanked the Government of the Republic of Zambia
by hosting this meeting and for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all delegates. He acknowledged the combined efforts of the ICGLR Executive Secretary, Member States and technical and financial partners to ensure the success of the 12th meeting of the Regional Committee Meeting in view of ensuring the legal exploitation of natural resources in the Great Lakes Region.

2.4. The Representative of the ICGLR Executive Secretary, Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo, expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Zambia for all the facilitations granted to the ICGLR Secretariat and all delegates attending the meeting in Lusaka. He mentioned the legendary hospitality that characterizes the Government of Zambia whenever ICGLR organizes activities in the country before recalling that Zambia is the cradle of RINR. He was pleased with the maximum participation of the ICGLR Member States (12) to the meeting in which he briefly highlighted the major achievements and challenges of the ICGLR Secretariat to advance the RINR activities. He wished that the recommendations from this meeting strengthen the commitment of Member States in the regional certification process. He pointed out the lack of financial sustainability needed for successful implementation of the 6 tools at the ICGLR Secretariat. He thanked the contribution of partners which enabled this meeting to take place. Finally, he appreciated the outstanding support of the Government of Zambia to the region in different activities organized by the ICGLR Secretariat.

2.5. The Guest of Honor, Mr. Paul L. Chanda, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development of the Republic of Zambia welcomed all delegates to Zambia on behalf of the Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development of the Republic of Zambia, and expressed his gratitude to the ICGLR Secretariat and partners for having chosen his country to host this meeting to achieve the objectives of the Lusaka Declaration. He recalled the attention that the ICGLR Secretariat attaches to the
implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the region and the role played by Zambia in the light of the Special Summit of Heads of State which approved the RINR six tools in December 2010. He called upon all Member States to kickoff the Regional Certification Mechanism. Honorable Paul L. Chanda traced the context of this meeting held on the eve of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the ICGLR Pact and preparation of the upcoming Summit of Heads of State. He encouraged Member States to have full control over natural resources and called on partners to continue supporting the activities of the RINR. In the end, he officially opened the 12th Meeting and wished fruitful deliberations.

3. OFFICIAL CLOSING SESSION

3.1. The closing ceremony was officiated by Mr. Alain Dauchi, Member of the ICGLR Audit Committee on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development of Zambia. Also present was the Chairman of ICGLR Regional Committee, Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye and Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo, the Representative of the ICGLR Executive Secretary.

3.2. The Chairman of ICGLR Regional Committee thanked the members of the Committee for their commitment to achieve the meeting objectives. He also thanked partners, and requested concerned parties to go and put into actions the adopted recommendations. He urged members of the committee who didn’t attend the meeting to ensure their participation in the next meetings. He wished everyone a safe trip back home.

3.3. Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo, extended the appreciation of the ICGLR Executive Secretary to the Republic of Zambia and its people for the hospitality received by delegates. He congratulated meeting participants to have met the great expectations of the
meeting. He thanked to governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda for their facilitations in the just concluded Third Party Audits of minerals and planned ones. The ICGLR Secretariat will do its best to ensure the mineral chain of custody services work in the interest of the Member States. Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo appealed to all members of the Regional Committee to always be present in the statutory meetings of the Committee. He finally thanked the ICGLR National Coordinator in Zambia and was grateful to his assistance and of all partners.

3.4. Mr. Alain Dauchi read the Speech from the Permanent Secretariat of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development of Zambia in which he expressed his profound appreciation to the ICGLR Secretariat to have organized the 12th Regional Committee meeting in Zambia. Also thanked the partners for their support and expressed the commitment of Zambia to the fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources which is partly manifested in the recent adoption of the new mining code. Being informed on the outcomes of the meeting, he was confident they will enhance to fight the conflict minerals in the region. On behalf of the Government of Zambia, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development of Zambia wished a safe return to their respective countries.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman introduced the agenda of the meeting, which was considered and adopted as follows:

- Review and confirmation of the minutes of the 11th meeting.
- Updates by the ICGLR Secretariat on the implementation status of the RINR activities.
- Updates by Member States on the implementation status of the 6 tools of the RINR.
- Updates on the recent work of the ICGLR Audit Committee.
• Presentation of the IMCA recruitment process.

• Presentation on the role of the African Mineral and Geo-sciences Centre in the sustainable mineral resources development in Africa with special emphasis on the Analytical Fingerprinting Laboratory.

• Identification of Member States priorities to include in the 2016 Operational Plan for the RINR.

• Evaluation of the implementation status of the recommendations of the 3rd meeting of Ministers in Charge of Mines and identification of theme for their 4th meeting.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE ICGLR REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE RINR

After discussions, the ICGLR Regional Committee made the following recommendations and decisions:

1. Member States as well as identified mineral exporting companies be kept informed of the process of selection of companies to be audited under the Regional Certification Third Party Audit scheme;

2. Member states are urged to create conducive environment to facilitate the work of Third Party Audits.

3. ICGLR Secretariat should engage all concerned parties to address all issues pertaining to the impasse of the planned Third Party Audit at Société Minière de Bisunzu in DRC to enable the audits to continue.

4. IMCA Pre-selection Committee to review the additional information provided by the prospective candidates and to finalize the recruitment process by the end of September 2015.
5. If the candidates do not meet the threshold of the prerequisite qualifications, the ICGLR Secretariat should re-advertise the position within two weeks with wider dissemination.

6. ICGLR Secretariat to organise a special meeting of the Regional Committee in October 2015 to finalize the recruitment of IMCA candidate before the RIMC meeting.

7. The ICGLR Secretariat and the African Mineral and Geo-sciences Centre (AMGC) to work closely to strengthen their bilateral cooperation.

8. The ICGLR Secretariat should develop standardized Memorandum of Understanding which should be a template to guide any agreement with Chain of Custody service providers.

9. For purpose of smooth continuity of the Regional Committee’s work, each Member State should ensure participation at the Regional Committee meetings.

10. ICGLR Member States to accelerate action on recommendations made at the 11th Regional Committee Meeting.

11. Non AMGC Member States are encouraged to join and benefit from the expertise of AMGC to achieve their visions in the mining sector.

12. The theme of the 4th coming meeting of Ministers in charge of Mines was recommended as “Lusaka Declaration and the Implementation of the Six Tools by ICGLR Member States, five (5) years later: status, challenges, and future perspectives”.

\[ \text{Signature} \]
13. The ICGLR Secretariat should consult with the National Coordination Mechanisms on possibility of financing of the next meeting of the Ministers in charge of Mines by Member States.

14. The 13th meeting of the Regional Committee be held in Rubavu, Rwanda.

Done in Lusaka, Zambia, on 10th September 2015.

Signed by

[Signatures]

Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye
Chairman

Mr. Bethsmith Aliga William
Rapporteur